GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:595
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
INDO-BANGLADESH TALKS
GADDAM GANGA REDDY;GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA;PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY;RAMESH CHAND TOMAR;SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of India and Bangladesh held any discussion in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the items of discussion;

(d) the outcome with respect to every issue discussed;

(e) whether the recent killings of BSF personnel by Bangladesh Rifles and the issues connected with those killings were taken up in the meet; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) At the invitation of the Government of India, an official delegation from Bangladesh visited India from June 11-14, 2001 for talks on pending matters relating to the India - Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974. The discussions focussed on early operationalisation of two Joint Boundary Working Groups, the first on Border Demarcation, and the second on Enclaves and Adversely Possessed Territories. The decision to constitute these Boundary Working Groups had been taken by the Foreign Secretaries of India and Bangladesh in December 2000 with a view to addressing the pending issues in a focussed and systematic manner. The terms of reference for the Joint Boundary Working Groups were finalized. It was agreed that the Groups should complete their work and submit their reports to the respective Foreign Secretaries by April 2002.

While the mandate of the meeting was to discuss pending matters relating to the India - Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974, the matter of incidents at the border was addressed. The two sides reiterated their commitment to the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 and, consistent with its provisions, emphasized that pending implementation by mutual agreement, the status quo shall be maintained and peaceful conditions should prevail along the border.